

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 2444

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL-UY

SUBJ: INAUGURATION OF USIS LIBRARY URUGUAY

REF: USIA 18032

ILA FOR DOROTHY DILLON FROM AMBASSADOR; ALSO BOGOTA FOR WITZLER;  
LIMA FOR GALLAGHER; ROME FOR AMERSON; MEXICO CITY FOR CARTER

1. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU HOW PROUD WE ALL ARE OF THE NEW ARTIGAS-WASHINGTON LIBRARY. ON FRIDAY NIGHT I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF PARTICIPATING IN A CEREMONY INAUGURATING THE NEW LOCATION IN THE HANDSOME BUILDING WHICH IT SHARES WITH THE BILATIONAL CENTER. IT IS TRULY THE MOST ORIGINAL AND INTERSTING LIBRARY I HAVESEEN ANYWHERE. THIS FEELING WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY EXPRESSED AND LATER REPEATED TO ME BY OUR GUESTS INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND NUMEROUS AMBASSADORS. MORE THAN 500 PERSONS CAME OUT IN SPITE OF A VIOLENT RAIN-THUNDER STORM TO BE PRESENT AT THE INAUGURATION.

2. I PRESENTED ARTIGAS-WASHINGTON COMMEMORATION MEDALS, ESPECIALLY STRUCK BY THE SCULPTOR ZORRILLA DE SAN MARTIN, TO SOME OF THE DIGNITARIES PRESENT. DON GOULD IS SENDING ESPECIALLY ENGRAVED MEDALS

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OF THE SAME TO YOU, JAMES KEOGH AND ARTHUR GROPP.

3. MORE THAN 800 PERSONS ATTENDED OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AND I AM TOLD THAT IT WAS STANDING ROOM ONLY AND A PATIENT LINE IN FRONT ALL YESTERDAY AFTER THE LIBRARY OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC FOR REGULAR OPERATIONS.

4. THE EXCELLENT VTR WHICH YOU PREPARED WITH ARTHUR GROPP WAS AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY AND TWO-DAY OPEN HOUSE. SHOWN MORE THAN 50 TIMES, IT IS SYMBOLIC OF THE LIBRARY'S USE OF AUDIO-VISUAL ELECTRONIC MEDIA. THIS WAS, BY THE WAY, THE FIRST TIME COLOR TV WAS SEEN IN URUGUAY.

5. THE NEW LIBRARY TOGETHER WITH THE BINATIONAL CENTER AND ITS THEATER AND EXHIBITS HALL NOW FORM THE MOST MODERN AND MOST COMPLETE CULTURAL COMPLEX IN MONTEVIDEO. IT MUST, I BELIEVE, COMPARE VERY FAVORABLY WITH ANY OTHER IN LATIN AMERICA. I WISH YOU COULD HAVE BEEN THERE FRIDAY NIGHT TO EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF A REALLY BRILLIANT SETTING IN WHICH THE BACKDROP OF ZORRILLA DE SAN MARTIN'S MONUMENTAL WORKS ON EXHIBITION HELPED TO PREPARE OUR GUESTS FOR THE WELCOME SURPRISE THEY HAD WHEN, AFTER THE SPEECHES AND RIBBON-CUTTING, THEY WERE GUIDED INTO THE STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT, BEAUTIFUL AND HANDSOMELY EQUIPPED NEW LIBRARY. TO WATCH THE IMPACT THIS LIBRARY MADE WAS TRULY A SATISFACTION.

6. I HEARTILY CONGRATULATE YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE EXCEPTIONAL WORK DONE HERE BY ARCHITECT WITZLER, MARGARET EUBANK, DON GOULD, PETE CECERE, ABE HOPMAN, GEORGE MILLER AND ALL USIS PERSONNEL WHO HAVE MADE THIS LIBRARY INTO A MODEL INFORMATION CENTER, OF WHICH WE AT THE EMBASSY AND ALL MONTEVIDEO ARE SO JUSTLY PROUD. HAVING ADVANCED SOMUCH IN THIS CULTURALLY ORIENTED CITY, WE ARE GOING TO NEED AND MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED, CAPABLE, IMAGINATIVE AND INNOVATIVE PERSONNEL TO REPLACE THOSE WE ARE LOSING, TO MAINTAIN LEADERSHIP AND KEEP UP OUR STANDARDS IN BOTH THE BINATIONAL CENTER AND THE ARTIGAS-WASHINGTON LIBRARY, SIRACUSA

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